

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COORDINATING COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of February 21, 2017

Members:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Commissioners
Lourdes Cuzán	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	Mayor Jim Cason
Israel Reyes	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	E	X	P	Vice-Mayor Frank Quesada
Carolina Rendeiro	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	Comm. Patricia Keon
Nancy Sanabria	E	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	E	X	E	Comm. Vince Lago
Volker Anding	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	X	P	Comm. Jeannett Slesnick
Steve Edelstein	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	E	Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark, City Manager
Enrique Monasterio	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	Council-at-Large Appointment

Country Appointed Liaisons:

Pending – Ms. Rendeiro
 Pending – Mr. Edelstein
 Cartagena, Colombia – Ms. Cuzan
 Aix-en-Provence, France – Mr. Anding
 Antigua, Guatemala – Ms. Sanabria
 Pending – Mr. Monasterio
 Granada, Spain – Mr. Reyes

A = Absent
P = Present
E = Excused
No Meeting

Staff in Attendance:

Evelyn Paz, Secretary, IACC

Guest: Rafael Gavarrete, Resident

Alma Kadragic, Chamber of Commerce liaison

Ms. Rendeiro called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Anding made a motion to approve the minutes of the IACC meeting on January 24, 2017 and Mr. Edelstein seconded the motion. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

LA ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA

Ms. Sanabria said she spoke with Mayor Cason and Ms. Miranda-Mauri about a possible donation of a school bus. Ms. Miranda-Mauri will be contacting the volunteer firefighters in La Antigua to advise if they can use the school bus. Once Ms. Sanabria hears back they would proceed from there. Mr. Anding asked where the bus is coming from. Ms. Sanabria said she was unsure of where the bus is coming from but it is not a City of Coral Gables bus. Ms. Paz said they are working with Southwest Ranches to have them donate a school bus and a dialysis machine in exchange for a decommissioned fire truck. The bus is meant to transport people to the local hospital. The bus would be refurbished into an emergency vehicle.

Ms. Rendeiro said she needed to speak to Ms. Miranda-Mauri about the upcoming conference for the Mayor of La Antigua to visit.

La Antigua will be participating in a cooking demonstration at the City's Farmer's Market.

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA:

Ms. Cuzan said the Mayor of Cartagena would be visiting pursuing a sports exchange. There is a visit scheduled for March 8th or 9th. The visit will be short and condensed. There will be three travelers accompanying the Mayor of Cartagena. Ms. Cuzan said she met with Mayor Cason to discuss the visit. On March 8th there will be a protocol exchange, a tour of the City, a luncheon and then back to City Hall for further meetings. Ms. Cuzan was going to work with Ms. Paz to finalize the schedule. Ms. Cuzan will be speaking to the City Manager to have City Directors speak as well as an extrication demonstration. The delegation would like to meet with the University of Miami to go over an athletic exchange. She mentioned that those types of exchanges are difficult because of the housing and transportation costs. Ms. Rendeiro mentioned Sister Cities International now provides grants for those expenses.

The Cartagena delegation would also like to speak to someone about a book exchange. They would like the community to donate books to be delivered to Cartagena. The concern is on shipping costs. Ms. Rendeiro said Mr. Kaplan from Books and Books may be willing to help. Ms. Kadragic also recommended reaching out the library because they receive donations and might be willing to donate some of the books to Cartagena.

Ms. Cuzan said the delegation would like to set up a meeting with a Chamber representative. They would like to discuss possible investment. They would like to have someone meet with their director of investment in Cartagena. Ms. Kadragic said the Global Business Committee would be able to have the meeting. Ms. Rendeiro said the meeting could take place to in City Hall or the Chamber of Commerce. The meeting is set to take place on March 8th in the afternoon.

Ms. Rendeiro said she would like to set up a meeting to speak to them about the entrepreneurship program.

Ms. Paz said Mayor Cason asked how many Sister Cities does Cartagena have. Ms. Rendeiro said they would have to research the specific number through the Sister Cities website.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE

Mr. Anding reached out to his counterpart in Aix. The meeting in Aix about the extrication program took place. However, they could not convey any details. The Aix-En-Provence Fire Chief is reviewing the proposal.

Mr. Anding spoke with the head of public affairs department at the French Consulate in reference to participating in our Farmer's Market. Mr. Anding did not hear from her until a personal meeting with the French Consul General. He has not heard back from his proposal. Mr. Edelstein said he would be seeing the Consul General and would bring it up to his attention again.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Monasterio contacted Agave in reference to Tequila, Mexico but there is a change in leadership currently taking place. There is a new managing director, Antonio Perez. Mr. Monasterio asked Ms. Paz to send a formal introduction before he proceeded to contact them. Mr. Anding asked the relationship with Agave and Tequila. Mr. Monasterio said he initiated the interest in a relationship between Tequila and the City of Coral Gables. Ms. Rendeiro said when he meets with Agave to gather background information on their ideas of a sister city relationship.

In reference to new and continuing partnerships, Mr. Reyes said eventually there will be another mayor for Granada that would hopefully renew the Sister City relationship. Ms. Rendeiro said that the every time there is a new mayor nothing gets done. Mr. Monasterio said we have Santander and Avila but they wanted an exchange before forming a relationship. Ms. Rendeiro said European countries want to be Sister Cities with other European countries.

Mr. Edelstein said Europe seems to only want to build relationships with other European cities with respect to a relationship with Bath, England and the City of Coral Gables. Mr. Edelstein has not been able to speak to anyone in regards to a relationship. He has reached out to the Consulate with no success. Mr. Edelstein said because there are only 2 meetings left for him on the Council, they should let the new board should decide how to proceed.

Mr. Edelstein said we should concentrate on English speaking countries such as Canada. Mr. Anding said the Consul General of Ireland in Atlanta, Georgia visited Miami recently. Mr. Edelstein said Ireland might be a good place to look to form a new relationship with. Mr. Monasterio mentioned the quaint city of Waterford as a good possibility.

In reference to Canada, Ms. Rendeiro said head of economic development in Toronto will be at the conference in April because he is very interested in the Sister City relationships. While Toronto is a lot larger than Coral Gables, it might be a good place to start to open relations. Ms. Rendeiro will be meeting with the Consul General of Canada and would mention the possibility of a relationship between a city in Canada and Coral Gables. Mr. Monasterio mentioned Vancouver. Mr. Edelstein mentioned Stratford, Ontario which has a great universities and quaint.

Ms. Rendeiro said Aveiro, Portugal has been finalized they are just looking for a date to take the trip. Mayor Cason wanted the trip to be before April. However, Ms. Rendeiro does not believe it will be possible.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Ms. Kadragic said the Chamber met with the new Consul General for Germany. The Chamber visited Tallahassee and informed the Council that Enterprise Florida would most likely not survive this legislative session. Governor Rick Scott will be at the conference in April.

Ms. Rendeiro gave an update from the program with the University of Miami. There will be three students working on the collaboration—one student from China, one from Germany and a student from India. Ms. Rendeiro has been working with them and with Professor Jorge Aserio. The goal of this partnership is to create a plan on how Sister Cities can market themselves to corporations. Having corporations give money to Sister Cities and have the organization as a budget line item. The plan will be finalized and presented at the World Strategic Forum in April. Ms. Rendeiro said the plan should be used as a model. The program might merit an award from Sister Cities for creating this pilot program. Ms. Rendeiro said she will need testimonials from the Council. The model city being used is Cartagena. The research will be geared to how the program will work with Colombia.

Ms. Rendeiro mentioned a young woman that travelled 192 countries who was recently featured in Forbes. She has advocated for diplomacy on tourism. Ms. Rendeiro asked this young woman to come speak at the conference in April. Ms. Rendeiro said the young woman will be looking at her calendar to try to be able to make the conference. She said the diplomacy can be established through tourism.

Ms. Rendeiro said Miami Dade County will be hosting a meeting February 28th. Ms. Rendeiro said International Trade Consortium (ITC) in the County is not communicating with their Sister Cities program. The program will focus on the economic development through sister cities. Mr. Anding said the county is working with the Consular Corp. The county created the Sister Cities Consular Corp International Trade committee to help bridge the gap between economic development and sister cities. When the committee was put together, Mr. Anding mentioned the Sister Cities program and it was side lined to concentrate on economic development. Ms. Rendeiro encouraged everyone to attend this meeting and give their feedback at the next IACC meeting.

Announcement:

The next meeting is scheduled for March 29, 2017.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Paz

Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council